States/UTs	Nos
Maharashtra	553
Meghalaya	2
Orissa	81
Pondicherry & Mahe	9
Punjab	221
Rajasthan	224
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	319
Uttar Pradesh	437
Uttaranchal	33
West Bengal	125
TOTAL	3724

GAIL's equity participation in a Chinese Company

1490. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has held talks with China Gas Holdings Limited for an equity participation for a 10 per cent stake in the company;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held so far; and

(c) the outcome thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. China Gas Holding Limited is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. GAIL had carried out due diligence of China Gas after it entered into Memorandum of Co-operation with the Company. Subsequently, Heads of Agreement were signed. GAIL propose to acquire 210 million shares of the Company at HK$ 1.158 per share after satisfaction of various conditions stipulated in the Agreement. The total value of the transaction is about Rs. 137 crores.

Oil exploration projects of ONGC

†1491. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has made a lot of efforts for oil exploration in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal since 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the total amount spent on these projects till date; and

(d) the details of the results achieved so far in respect of oil exploration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) From 1.1.2003 to 31.12.2004, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has acquired 3514 Line Kilometers (LK) of 2 D seismic and 22841 square kilometers of 3D seismic data and drilled 40 exploratory wells in the Arabian Sea (Western Offshore).

In the Bay of Bengal, Eastern Offshore, during the same period, ONGC has acquired 15363 LK of 2D seismic and 8060 square kilometer of 3D seismic data and drilled 18 exploratory wells.

(c) ONGC maintains accounting records on financial year basis. During the last three years, ONGC has spent the following amounts on exploration in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal:—

(*Rs. in crore*)

Financial Year	Arabian Sea	Bay of Bengal
2002-03	807.13	358.67
2003-04	1468.42	325.95
2004-05 (Till 31.12.2004)	1545.46	254.52

(d) Of the 40 wells drilled in the Arabain sea, seven proved to be oil bearing and four gas bearing. Of the 18 wells drilled in the Bay of Bengal, one proved to be oil bearing and three gas bearing. Exploration through delineation efforts is continuing in these areas.

CNG distribution centres in Rajasthan

†1492. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG distribution centres opened in various States for use of vehicles;

(b) whether there is any CNG distribution centre in any town of Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not opening the CNG distribution centres in Rajasthan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.